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adder, the rattlesnake, and the grass snake, tested against the venom of the African and the Indian cobra by subcutaneous injection in the case of animals like the rabbit. The experiment showed that the bile of venomous serpents was able, when mixed with the venom of serpents, to prevent lethal doses of the latter from producing death; and that the bile was indeed so powerful an agent that a quantity actually smaller than the quantity of venom might be sufficient for the purpose. Although when in the alimentary canal bile was nontoxic, the bile salts and bile pigments acted as poisons when injected under the skin or into a blood vessel. It was improbable, therefore, that the bile in its natural form could be used as an antidote, except by stomach administration, or by application to the wound caused by a snake bite. The successful result of an attempt to isolate its antidotal constituent had, however, rendered it possible to test the therapeutic value of this constituent when it was introduced into the blood of an animal which had already received a lethal dose of venom.

An experiment made with a small quantity of puff adder bile, taken in conjunction with a considerable number of "in vitro" experiments, that had been made, not only supplied strong confirmation of the evidence that bile was able to render serpent's venom inert, but also suggested that from bile there might be produced an antidote for snake poisoning which, in its antidotal value, was at least equal to the most powerful antivenene, or antivenomous serum as yet obtained from the blood of immunised animals.

EUGENE GERMAUT,  
*United States Consul.*

To the DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
*Washington, D. C.*

#### STATISTICAL REPORTS.

AUSTRALIA—*Sydney*.—Month of June, 1897. Population, 410,000. Total deaths, 435, including diphtheria, 5; enteric fever, 11, and phthisis pulmonalis, 38.

BAHAMAS—*Dunmore Town*.—Two weeks ended August 27, 1897. Population, 1,472. No deaths.

*Governors Harbor*.—Two weeks ended August 28, 1897. Estimated population, 1,500. No deaths.

*Green Turtle Cay—Abaco*.—Two weeks ended August 26, 1897. Estimated population, 3,900. No deaths.

*Nassau*.—Two weeks ended August 31, 1897. Estimated population, 11,000. Deaths not reported.

CHILE—*Antofagasta*.—Month of July, 1897. Estimated population, 14,000. Total deaths, 29, including phthisis pulmonalis, 5.

FRANCE—*Nice*.—Month of July, 1897. Population, 108,227. Total deaths, 168, including diphtheria, 1; enteric fever, 5, and phthisis pulmonalis, 15.

GREAT BRITAIN—*England and Wales*.—The deaths registered in 33 great towns in England and Wales during the week ended August 28 correspond to an annual rate of 24.6 a thousand of the aggregate popu-

lation, which is estimated at 10,992,524. The highest rate was recorded in Preston, viz, 47.6, and the lowest in Huddersfield, viz, 14.4 a thousand.

*London*.—One thousand seven hundred and forty-eight deaths were registered during the week, including measles, 30; scarlet fever, 15; diphtheria, 28; whooping cough, 29; enteric fever, 12, and diarrhea and dysentery, 349. The deaths from all causes correspond to an annual rate of 20.4 a thousand. In greater London, 2,430 deaths were registered, corresponding to an annual rate of 20.1 a thousand of the population. In the "outer ring" the deaths included 4 from diphtheria, 6 from measles, 4 from whooping cough, and 3 from scarlet fever.

*Ireland*.—The average annual death rate represented by the deaths registered during the week ended August 28 in the 23 principal town districts of Ireland was 23.5 a thousand of the population. The lowest rate was recorded in Lurgan, viz, 4.6, and the highest in Galway, viz, 41.5 a thousand. In Dublin and suburbs 154 deaths were registered, including scarlet fever, 2; enteric fever, 3, and diphtheria, 2.

*Scotland*.—The deaths registered in 8 principal towns during the week ended August 28 correspond to an annual rate of 19.6 a thousand of the population, which is estimated at 1,549,907. The lowest mortality was recorded in Leith, viz, 17.3, and the highest in Paisley, viz, 23.8 a thousand. The aggregate number of deaths registered from all causes was 585, including scarlet fever, 7; diphtheria, 1; measles, 2, and whooping cough, 23.

GREECE—*Athens*.—Month of July, 1897. Estimated population, 111,846. Total deaths, 277, including typhus fever, 1, and enteric fever, 13.

NOVA SCOTIA—*Windsor*.—Month of August, 1897. Estimated population, 3,000. Total deaths, 3.

JAMAICA—*Kingston*.—Month of August, 1897. Estimated population, 34,314. Total deaths, 108, including phthisis pulmonalis, 14.

RUSSIA—*Riga*.—Month of June, 1897. Estimated population, 282,000. Total deaths, 556, including diphtheria, 8; enteric fever, 6; measles, 20; scarlet fever, 18; whooping cough, 6, and phthisis pulmonalis, 58.

SWITZERLAND—*Lucerne*.—Month of July, 1897. Estimated population, 23,500. Total deaths, 35, including enteric fever, 1.

UNITED STATES OF COLOMBIA—*Barranquilla*.—Month of July, 1897. Estimated population, 40,000. Total deaths, 102.

WEST INDIES—*Guadaloupe—Pointe à Pitre*.—Two weeks ended July 31, 1897. Estimated population, 18,500. Total deaths, 30.

*St. Christopher*.—Two weeks ended August 28, 1897. Estimated population, 31,000. No deaths reported.